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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

Application of

BARRY M. VERDEGAN ET AL.)

Appln. No. 09/745,754)

Filed: December 21, 2000)

Examiner: R. J. Popovics)

Group Art Unit: 1724)

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ELECTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action restriction requirement mailed September 23, 2002, applicant elects Group I, claims 1-32, 88-91 with traverse. Responsive to the species requirement, applicant elects Species II, corresponding to Fig. 3.

Remarks

In the grouping of claims identified by the Examiner, it appears that Group I should include claims 1-32 and 88-91, rather than 88-89. Claims 1-32 and 88-91 are directed to a filtering system, identified by the Examiner as Group I. In the following remarks, it will be assumed that claims 88-91 were intended to be included in Group I drawn to a filtering system. The Examiner is kindly asked to advise of any comments to the contrary.

The Examiner has identified three groups, namely: Group I, claims 1-32, 88-91; Group II, claims 33-56, 92-93; Group III, claims 57-87. Applicant has elected Group I, claims 1-32, 88-91, with traverse.

Reconsideration and removal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Applicant believes that the application may be most efficiently examined if all of